

Security Information

DEC 11 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS)

SUBJECT: Impact of the Rosenberg Case

1. We have received only preliminary and informal reports from the Departments of Defense and State as to their views on the effect the Communist exploitation of the Rosenberg case has had so far. Both State and Defense report that they may have further information to give us about noon today, but meanwhile we are forwarding those comments which we have received.
2. Mr. Joseph Phillips reported he will not have State Department views prepared until after eleven today, but we have obtained the following informal comments from Mr. Jesse Macknight, special assistant to the administrator for the International Information Administration. He describes the reaction abroad as spotty; most of the exploitation appears to be in France and Italy, although there has been some activity in support of the Rosenbergs in Norway. Both the Rome and Paris missions of State have asked for support material from the Department to set forth the true facts in the case. London reports there is "not much impact" in England; however in Israel the Communists duped a number of rabbis into signing a plea that the Rosenbergs be given executive clemency. The Communist press gave this story a good ride, but the rabbis hastened to explain later that they did not realize that they had signed. On Tuesday the Daily Worker (New York) demanded an interview which one of its correspondents had with the Chief Rabbi of Czechoslovakia; the Rabbi, Dr. Gustav Sichl, denounced as lies the stories which have appeared in the U.S. press about the anti-semitic aspects of the recent Prague trials. In summation, Mr. Macknight believes the campaign launched by the Communists in support of the Rosenbergs so far has not been successful in counteracting the advantage the free world gained in connection with the Prague purge.
3. Mr. Godel of General Magruder's office reports that Mr. Foster considers the Rosenberg case a very serious problem, and will be interested in hearing the views which may be expressed at today's PSB luncheon. His staff considers that one of the best lines to use in the

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Security Information

object of this case is to explain the open and just methods by which the Krembergs were tried, pointing out at the same time that such is a sagacious variant to the Soviet's methods of justice. Mr. Tolson staff also believes it should point out that treason is treason and must be judged accordingly - therefore the death sentence is what is deserved.

(Signed)

note & attachment not available

Attachment
New York Times Article
11 December 1952